

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 HEW-04 AID-05 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 NSC-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02

EB-08 /060 W

-----075709 040516Z /15

R 040300Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2900

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POPULATION INFORMATION

REF: STATE 167895

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA (GOI) HAS YET TO TAKE A DEFINITIVE STAND ON CURRENT BIRTH AND DEATH RATES. THE GOI IS AWAITING RESULTS FROM THE 1976 INDONESIA INTERCENSAL POPULATION SURVEY (IPS) WHICH IS STILL BEING PROCESSED. WE HAVE REVIEWED PRELIMINARY IPS DATA AND A PRONOUNCED DECLINE IN FERTILITY IS INDICATED FOR THE PERIOD 1970 TO 1976. BASED ON THE IPS PRELIMINARY TABULATIONS, WE ESTIMATE THE CRUDE BIRTH RATE FOR INDONESIA TO BE 38 IN 1975, 36 IN 1976 AND 34 BY MID-1977. WE ESTIMATE DEATH RATES TO BE 18 IN 1975, 17 IN 1976 AND 16 BY MID-YEAR 1977.

2. INDONESIA'S POPULATION POLICY IS TO REDUCE FERTILITY BY 50 PER CENT, OR TO A CRUDE BIRTH RATE (CBR) OF 20 BY THE YEAR 2000. BASED ON THE EARLY FINDINGS OF THE IPS, THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING COORDINATING BOARD (BKKBN) IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REACHING THE TARGET 10-15 YEARS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. INSTEAD OF A POPULATION OF 240-250 MILLION BY THE YEAR 2000, THERE IS NOW CAUTIOUS TALK OF A POPULATION OF 185-190 MILLION

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BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. THIS GROWING OPTIMISM IS A RESULT OF THE SUCCESSES TO DATE OF THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM ON JAVA AND BALI. THE IPS INDICATES A FERTILITY REDUCTION ON JAVA AND BALI OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN A WOMAN IS EXPECTED TO HAVE OVER HER REPRODUCTIVE LIFETIME (TOTAL FERTILITY RATE) FROM A 1970 LEVEL OF 5.5 TO A 1976 LEVEL OF 4.5 OR BY ONE CHILD, AND 18 PER CENT

REDUCTION.

THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM HAS STRONG GOI LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT FROM PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS DOWN TO VILLAGE LEADERS. THIS SUPPORT HAS BEEN CRITICAL IN MOVING THE PROGRAM FROM THE CLINIC TO THE VILLAGE. VILLAGE FAMILY PLANNING (VFP) IN INDONESIA IS A GENERIC TERM WITH EACH PROVINCIAL VFP PROGRAM REFLECTING LOCAL NUANCES. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, COMMON CHARACTERISTICS. ALL VILLAGE FAMILY PLANNING PROJECTS INVOLVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTRACEPTIVE DEPOT IN THE VILLAGE. THE DEPOT MAY BE IN THE VILLAGE HEADMAN'S HOUSE, THE VILLAGE OFFICE OR A VOLUNTEER'S HOME. VILLAGE FAMILY PLANNING USUALLY INVOLVES THE FORMATION OF FAMILY PLANNING GROUPS COMPRISED OF FAMILY PLANNING USERS. ON JAVA AND BALI THE VFP PROGRAM IS CLOSELY LINKED TO THE HEALTH CLINIC WHERE FAMILY PLANNING IS INTEGRATED WITH HEALTH SERVICES.

THE BKKBN'S CURRENT EMPHASIS IS TO STRENGTHEN THE VFP PROGRAM ON JAVA AND BALI AND IMPROVE REPORTING OF ACTIVITIES. THE JAVA AND BALI SYSTEM HAS INCREASED IN TWO YEARS FROM 2,500 CLINICS TO AN ESTIMATE 5,000 OUTLETS-CLINICS, DEPOTS AND GROUPS. THIS HAS BEEN A SHOCK TO THE REPORTING AND RECORDING SYSTEM AND TRAINING AND RETRAINING NEEDS TO BE DONE. WHILE IMPROVING THE JAVA AND BALI SYSTEM, BKKBN IS ALSO INTERESTED IN TESTING THE INTEGRATION OF PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES INTO THE VFP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYSTEM. A PILOT PROJECT WILL COMMENCE SOON IN BALI WITH VFP PERSONNEL BEING TRAINED TO DELIVER BASIC NUTRITION EDUCATION. THERE IS ALSO DISCUSSION OF USING TWO-PERSON FAMILY PLANNING AND HEALTH TEAMS (STMK) IN WEST JAVA TO INOCULATE PREGNANT WOMEN.

ON 10 OF THE 21 OUTER ISLANDS, THE BKKBN HAS INITIATED 10 VFP PROJECTS COVERING APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. THESE WILL BE EXPANDED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

AT THIS TIME, IT IS OUR JUDGEMENT THAT DONOR ASSISTANCE IS SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN THE ACCELERATING MOMENTUM OF THIS INNOVATIVE PROGRAM. USAID IS PROPOSING A 5-YEAR \$25 MILLION GRANT TO ASSIST WITH VFP AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES. USAID IS ALSO PROPOSING A \$50 MILLION LOAN FOR FIVE YEARS ASSIST THE GOI WITH OC SUPPLIES AND START-UP OF OC PRODUCTION BY PROVIDING OC RAW MATERIALS. THE IBRD/GOI HAVE RECENTLY SIGNED A \$24.5 MILLION LOAN FOR VEHICLES, TRAINING CENTERS, PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS, BASIC OC RESEARCH AND APPLIED PROGRAM RESEARCH. ALSO SOME ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BY UNFPA, IPPF, INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS, SEVERAL U.S. FOUNDATIONS AND THROUGH OCCASIONAL GRANTS FROM OTHER DONOR NATIONS. FOR THE MOST PART, SUCH ASSISTANCE IS EFFECTIVELY COORDINATED BY BKKBN,

HENCE MAKES USEFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL PROGRAM.
IN ADDITION, THERE ARE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS DONOR ORGANIZATION,
AS WELL AS EXCHANGES OF PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION, THAT HELP
TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND PROMOTE COOPERATION.

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EB-08 AGRE-00 /060 W
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3. THE EXPERIENCE ON JAVA AND BALI CALLS INTO QUESTION
SOME OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE BUCHAREST CONFERENCE AND
CASTS DOUBT ON THE BASIC ASSUMPTION OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC
TRANSITION. FERTILITY ON JAVA AND BALI APPEARS TO HAVE
FALLEN BY 18 PER CENT FROM 1970-1976 WITHOUT RAPID SOCIO-ECONOMIC
CHANGE. MAJOR DECLINES HAVE BEEN IN RURAL RATHER THAN
URBAN AREAS. MAJOR CHANGE OVER THIS TIME PERIOD HAS
BEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF A VIGOROUS VILLAGE BASED FAMILY PLANNING
PROGRAM. WHERE THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN THE STRONGEST, FOR
EXAMPLE EAST JAVA AND BALI, FERTILITY HAS FALLEN THE
FASTEST. CURIOUSLY, IN EAST JAVA AND BALI WHERE THE
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE HAS DECLINED FROM 1970-1976 BY 20 PERCENT
AND 36 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY, THE CHILD MORTALITY RATE HAS
DECLINED ONLY 5 PERCENT IN EAST JAVA AND 6 PERCENT IN BALI.

ON JAVA AND BALI, FAMILY PLANNING HAS BECOME THE
PIONEER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE VILLAGE AND IT IS
CURRENTLY BEING TESTED AS A VEHICLE FOR OTHER DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS SUCH AS HEALTH AND EDUCATION. AS MENTIONED
ABOVE, VFP AND STMK ARE BEING CONSIDERED AS VEHICLES FOR
HEALTH PROGRAMS. WE HAVE ALSO RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT
FAMILY PLANNING GROUPS ARE BECOMING ACTIVE IN LITERACY
PROGRAMS, HANDICRAFTS, SEWING AND COLLECTIVE ACTIVITIES
SUCH AS RAISING CHICKENS AND MARKETING. THIS ENERGIZING

OF A SELF-SELECTED GROUP OF FORWARD THINKING WOMEN IN THE
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VILLAGE SERVES TO ACT AS A MAGNET TO OTHER INTERESTED
WOMEN. ENTRY TO THE GROUP IS THROUGH FAMILY PLANNING.

INTERESTINGLY, BKKBN IS BECOMING KNOWN AROUND JAKARTA
AS A CON-DO AGENCY. RECENT EXPANSION OF VFP TO THE
10 OUTER ISLAND PROVINCES WAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED AND MANY
ADMIRE BKKBN'S VISION AND SPEED. OTHER MINISTRIES SUCH
AS EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED
FOR LAGGING BEHIND. THEY COUNTER THAT THEY ARE BOUND BY
RULES AND LACK OF FLEXIBLE RESOURCES.

IN TERMS OF THE BROADER DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS CON-
CERNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FERTILITY AND VARIABLES
SUCH AS INCOME, LAND AND SOCIO-CULTURE CHANGE, DISCUSSIONS
ARE GOING ON ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF JOINT STUDIES BETWEEN
BKKBN AND THE NATIONAL PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.
BKKBN AND IBRD HAVE PLANS TO IMPLEMENT A THREE-YEAR STUDY
WHICH WILL EVALUATE THE EFFECT OF INCOME REDISTRIBUTION
ON FERTILITY.

4. INDONESIA IS A CHRONIC FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRY. CUR-
RENTLY THE ANNUAL FOOD IMPORT BILL IS \$800 MILLION, ABOUT
10 PERCENT OF BASIC STAPLES CONSUMED BY THE POPULATION. RICE
IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FOOD IN THEIR DIET, AND DESPITE
MASSIVE EFFORTS TO EXPAND PRODUCTION INDONESIA IS NOW
RANKED AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORTER OF RICE. OVER THE
PAST THREE IFYS, ANNUAL RICE IMPORTS HAVE AVERAGED OVER
ONE MILLION MT. PLANNED IMPORTS FOR 1977/78 ARE 1.6
MILLION MT OF RICE BECAUSE OF DROUGHT AND PEST RELATED
SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION. ADDITIONALLY, 1.1 BILLION MT
OF WHEAT IMPORTS ARE BEING PLANNED.

5. ONE OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES OF THE GOI IS TO
INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN GENERAL, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY
TO REACH SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RICE PRODUCTION. THE HIGH
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PRIORITY THIS IS GIVEN BY THE GOI IS REPRESENTED BY THE
BUDGET ALLOCATION. AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION ACTIVITIES
HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED 18 PERCENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT BUDGET AND
9 PER CENT (\$925 MILLION) OF THE TOTAL BUDGET IN IFY 78. WHILE
THE PRIORITY EXISTS AND PLANS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED, THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN SLOW AND AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY LONG PERIOD OF LESS THAN
AVERAGE RAINFALL AND EXCESSIVE PEST INFESTATION. THE

RESULT HAS BEEN THAT GROWTH IN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION HAS BEEN HELD IN CHECK AT BETWEEN 3 AND 4 PERCENT ANNUALLY AND CALORIC AND PROTEIN DEFICIENCIES PERSIST.

6. PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE FOOD DEFICITS ARE FRAUGHT WITH DIFFICULTIES AND ENORMOUS UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE ABILITY

OF INDONESIA TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY IN THE LONGER RUN. THE ONE FACT THAT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IS THAT INDONESIA WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT FOOD (RICE) IMPORTER FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WHILE IT IS ALSO GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE SIZE OF DEFICITS WILL CONTINUE TO GROW EXACT MAGNITUDES ARE UNCERTAIN. ESTIMATES OF IMPORT REQUIREMENTS PREPARED FOR 1985, BY USAID, INDICATE THAT NORMAL RICE IMPORT REQUIREMENTS IN 1985 WILL BE BETWEEN 1.3 MILLION MT (ASSUMING HIGH PRODUCTIVITY) AND 5.1 MILLION MT A YEAR (ASSUMING CURRENT RATE OF PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE).

7. THE ABILITY OF GOI TO FINANCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD IMPORTS IS EQUALLY DIFFICULT PROJECTION. IF GOI CAN ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES SO THAT LOW IMPORT REQUIREMENT IS THE CASE, THE BURDEN WOULD NOT BE EXCESSIVE; HOWEVER, IF HIGH IMPORT SITUATION IS THE CASE IN HAND BY 1985 FOOD IMPORTS WILL REPRESENT SERIOUS FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSIDERATION. THE ABILITY OF GOI TO DEAL WITH HANDLING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION WILL ALSO DEPEND ON THE MAGNITUDE OF IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. THE FUTURE FOOD IMPORT SITUATION IN INDONESIA IS STILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AN OPEN QUESTION AND WARRANTS CAREFUL ATTENTION. THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN POPULATION GROWTH RATES ARE HEARTENING BUT FOOD BALANCE STILL REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN PRODUCTIVITY IF INDONESIA IS TO MAINTAIN MANAGEABLE IMPORT LEVELS.

8. AMBASSADOR HAS SEEN AND CONCURS.

RIVES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, POPULATION DATA
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JAKART10325
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770279-0060
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From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 167895
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1711568
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: SPOP, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73abfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009